



James City County Police

"Protection and Prevention through Professionalism"



The Watch Dial

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4TH QUARTER 2012

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Vehicle Security Tips

According to the 2006 FBI Crime statistics, once every 26.4 seconds in the United States a vehicle is stolen - ***and that theft from vehicles occurs far more frequently.*** While conventional alarms, steering wheel locks, ignition cutoffs, vehicle tracking systems, and other anti-theft devices help deter thieves from breaking into your car or stealing it, there are some basic, common-sense measures that you can take to minimize the chances that your parked vehicle will be targeted in the first place:

- **Always lock all doors and close windows**, even if you're going to be parked for a very short time. Never leave your car running while you run into a convenience store, go to an ATM, etc.
- **Park in a well-lighted area.** Find a space near a store entrance or higher-traffic area, never in an outlying, deserted parking area.
- **Don't leave any valuables in the car.** Keep any loose objects in the trunk or in storage bins under the seat. A blanket covering things can be an obvious invitation for a break-in. Minimize the number of small objects in your car they are great bait for thieves!
- **Choose an open, visible space.** If you have a small car, try to avoid parking next to large trucks and SUVs, which give thieves good cover from security cameras and passers-by.
- **Never hide spare keys in or around the car.** Experienced thieves know all the hiding places.
- **Don't leave parking stubs in the car.** It just makes it a little bit easier for thieves to be inconspicuous. Take them with you.
- **Get a locking gas cap.** If your vehicle does not already have one, it helps prevent fuel siphoning and vandalism.
- **Use a sound system with a detachable face**, or a sound system that can be removed completely from the vehicle.
- **Don't lock your glove box, and don't keep valuables in it.** If your car is broken into, a locked glove box can be an invitation for an annoyed petty thief to tear your dashboard up to get it open. Do not store your vehicle's title in the glove compartment or anywhere else in the car.
- **Don't ever think that your car is too old and worn to be the target of thieves.** Most often, stolen cars are stripped for parts rather than for resale, and the overall condition of the car makes little difference. High-tech alarm systems may thwart break-in attempts, but usually some damage results. The best protection against thieves is to make your car unattractive to them in the first place.

Special points of interest:

If you would like a Security Survey conducted on your residence or business please contact Sgt. Humphries at: 757-603-6022 to schedule a Community Services Officer to visit your home or business. This is a free service provided by James City County Police.

**DON'T BE
A VICTIM!
LOCK
YOUR CAR
TAKE
YOUR KEYS
REMOVE
YOUR BELONGINGS**

Halloween Safety



Although children look forward to tricks, treats, and ghoulish garb, Halloween can be fraught with fright for parents, with candy given to their kids by strangers and a legion of masked and costumed trick-or-treaters at the door. However, following a few safety tips can ensure safe fun for kids and candy-givers alike.

To ensure that trick-or-treaters, you, and your house stay safe, remember the following tips.

- Clear your yard and sidewalk of any obstacles or decorations that may be hard to see in the dark..
- Keep your house well lighted, both inside and out; you wouldn't want to miss any particularly good costumes, would you?
- Ask your Neighborhood Watch or local citizen's group to haunt (patrol) your community.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your police or sheriff's department.

To make sure even the scariest costumes are safe, keep the following in mind when buying or designing one.

- Try makeup instead of masks; it is more comfortable and does not obstruct vision the way masks can.
- Check to ensure that costumes are flame-retardant so that young ones are safe around jack-o'-lanterns, candles, and other flames.
- Keep costumes short to ensure that the only trip taken is the one around the neighborhood.
- Look for brightly colored costumes, attach reflector strips to costumes and bags, and remind trick-or-treaters to carry glow sticks and flashlights.
- If a costume involves any sort of fake weapon, make sure that it is made of a flexible material such as cardboard or foam. Or, avoid the whole problem of weapons by challenging your child to design a costume that is scary without one.

Keep in mind the next few tips to make sure your trick-or-treater's night in the neighborhood will be safe and fun.

- Older kids should trick-or-treat in groups; kids walking around alone are never as safe as those in groups, and especially not at night. Younger kids should be accompanied by a parent or trusted neighbor.
- Review the route for trick-or-treating beforehand and set a time set when kids should be home. Also, have a plan if your child gets separated from his or her friends or from you.
- Remind your children not to enter strange houses or cars.
- After a successful and safe night around the neighborhood, remember that the treats still need scrutiny before anyone eats them.
- Remind your children not to eat treats until they have come home. To help ensure this, feed them a meal or a substantial snack before they go out.
- Check all treats at home in a well-lighted place. Be especially wary of anything that is not wrapped by the factory or that is no longer sealed.



Safe Holiday Shopping

As the holiday season approaches, malls, other retailers, and grocery stores are more crowded than usual with busy shoppers. Whether you are about celebrate a holiday in the coming weeks or not, keep the following in mind when going out to shop (and the rest of the year, too):

- Keep careful track of your bags and other packages. If you leave something behind, it could get stolen or discarded.
- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies when taking mass transit: report any unattended packages to security or staff.
- Be sure not to buy more than you can carry. If your packages are making it hard for you to walk upright or see, ask a store employee to help you carry them to your car.
- Check receipts to see whether your full credit card number appears. If a receipt has your full number on it, take a pen and thoroughly scratch it out.
- Double check that you have your credit cards and check book after you pay for your items.
- If you go shopping with children over the next several weeks, keep the following advice in mind for everyone's safety:
- Ensure that any children with you know your cell phone number. Give cards with contact information to any who do not.
- Make a plan with children in case you get separated. Have a central meeting place, and review with your children who they can turn to for help if they find themselves alone.
- Go over the dangers of strangers with them so that they know who not to talk to or follow.



Holiday Travel Safety

This holiday season many people will be out traveling to see family and friends. The James City County Police Department is encouraging people to plan ahead for your road trip. Here are some safety tips to help you prepare for your trip so it will go smoothly and hopefully stress free.

- Prepare your vehicle for long distance travel. Check your vehicle equipment; make sure lights are working properly, fluids levels are topped off and tire pressure is correct.
- When was the last time you checked the pressure in your spare tire or located your jack in case you have a flat on the road?
- How old is your car battery? The winter time can be very hard on you battery. Car batteries last about 3-5 years depending on the model.
- Be prepared in case your car becomes disabled. Have the proper emergency equipment with you. For example: a flashlight, a windshield scraper, road flares or other illuminating devices, warm clothing and gloves if you are traveling to areas with cold weather.
- A cell phone is an asset in emergencies. You can reach the police and all other emergency services by dialing 911 on your cell phone.
- When packing luggage and Holiday presents, make sure you don't load the vehicle so much that you can't see out the rear and sides of the vehicle. Make sure you have clear and unobstructed view.
- Leave early so you are not rushed to your destination. The roads will have extra traffic on them, so expect delays. Plan on giving yourself extra time to arrive at your destination; so that you are not speeding or frustrated.
- Keep a full tank of gas. If you see that you are getting near or below a quarter tank of gas, fill up. Don't take a chance of getting stranded because you ran out of gas.
- Don't drive if you are tired or drowsy. Stop often and stretch to avoid getting tired. Switch drivers so each person can rest if traveling long distance. Stay alert!
- And as always, obey traffic laws and wear your seatbelt.

These are just a few suggested safety tips. Remember others will be out on the road traveling also, so DRIVE FRIENDLY. Please use caution during your travels.

Home Holiday Security

While the holidays are usually a joyful season, nearly 400,000 burglaries occur in the U.S. from November through December each year, according to the FBI. Since burglars are well-aware that expensive new can be targeted. Therefore, this time of year, It is important for homeowners to take some extra precautions to reduce the risk of their holiday celebrations getting ruined by theft.

Going Away for the Holidays

- As with any time of year it is important to take certain safety precautions before leaving your home unattended. It is especially important to do so during the holiday season when burglars are closely watching for potential empty homes. If you are going away, it is best to have a trusted friend or neighbor monitor your home for you. Have this person collect your mail and any packages left on your doorstep. Not only will this serve as a sign of activity to lurking thieves but will also prevent your packages and holiday gifts from being stolen when you are away. In addition, never broadcast the fact that you are going out of town. This means avoid posting information about where you are on social networks or in your voice-mail recording. Burglars monitor for this type of information to indicate their next easy break-in.

Displaying Christmas Gifts

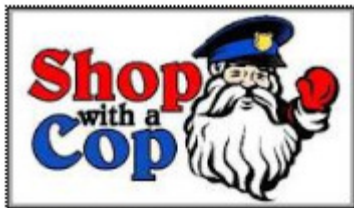
- While no holiday décor is complete without a beautiful tree stuffed with gifts beneath it, it is important to remember that thieves can see exactly what your neighbors can. If your tree and gifts are easily visible from the street in front of your home, you could be putting yourself at risk of getting burglarized. If you insist on placing your tree in front of a window for people to see, make sure to keep your holiday gifts hidden out of sight as long as possible. Also, this means avoiding piling all the gifts under the tree at once. Only put out which ever gifts you are exchanging immediately and keep the others in storage. Leaving a big pile of gifts unattended is practically like inviting a thief inside your home.

Holiday Disposal

- Keep in mind that even when the holidays are over, burglars are still on high alert. Often, observing thieves will monitor people's garbage to judge what kind of new gifts a family may have gotten during the Christmas season. Large television boxes and packaging of other valued items can serve as a sign to thieves that these pricey items are now inside your home. Be sure to break down gift boxes and other holiday packages and conceal them before placing them out for disposal.



2nd Annual “Shop with a Cop” Program



On December 8th, 2012 the James City County Police Department will be hosting their second annual “Shop with a Cop” event. The event is held to create better relations between the Officers and some local children, and to assist their families during the stressful holiday season. Each participating Officer is paired up with a child between the ages of 6 and 14. They are given a gift card and allowed to go shopping with the Officer. Each child is required to spend part of the card on an item of necessity, such as a coat, clothes or shoes. After that purchase they can then spend the rest on whatever they wish. When the shopping is done the Officer and the child are treated to a free lunch. This allows the Officer and the child to spend even more quality time together. This event is a very worthy and gratifying cause. Everyone involved, children and Officers have a great time.

Each year the department holds a Shred-a-Thon event where we help the public fight identity theft by providing a shredding truck for their documents. The money raised at this event funds the department's “Shop with a Cop” program. The department does accept donations to help fund the “Shop with a Cop” program all year long.

For more information or any questions please contact Officer Todd Dill at 757-603-6025.

FIRST GROCERY SIZE BAG -FREE

ADDITIONAL BAGS \$5.00 EACH

Fight Identity Theft
and
Help a Child At The Same Time



SHRED-A-THON

Sponsored by the James City
County Police Dept.

Shredding by Stealth Shredding



Shred your documents for your safety and in turn your
donation will help a needy child during the holidays

**All funds raised will benefit the annual
"Shop with a COP" Program**

Oct. 13th, 2012
Wmsbg/James City Courthouse
5201 Monticello Ave
9:00 am – 12:00pm

For any questions contact Officer Todd Dill 757-603-6025

HELP A CHILD HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY THIS YEAR !



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Michelle Dill 757-532-1491



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